

[3 May, 2007]

RAJYA SABHA

Indo-Japan talks

3092. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the topics on which talks were held between Governments of India and Japan recently when the Minister visited Tokyo;

(b) the details of the decisions arrived at; and

(c) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the two Government to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) The External Affairs Minister visited Japan on 22-23 March, 2007 at the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Japan. The two Ministers initiated the first Ministerial-level Strategic Dialogue between the two countries. They exchanged views on ways to enhance cooperation on regional, multilateral and global issues, and reiterated their readiness to cooperate in the process of community building in the Asian region. Both sides also discussed ways to strengthen bilateral relations through the implementation of understandings and agreements contained in the Joint Statement signed by the two Prime Ministers in December, 2006. During the visit, the two sides agreed on the modalities for High Level Energy Dialogue and the Bilateral Consultation Mechanism on High Technology Trade. Government are regularly monitoring progress on the implementation of understandings reached with Japan in the fields of defence and security, economic cooperation, science & technology & people-to-people exchanges.

Peaceful use of atomic energy

3093. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has sought the support of some countries for gaining access to high-tech know how and equipments for peaceful use of atomic energy etc; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) At present the guidelines of the 45-country Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) impede cooperation in nuclear energy and trade in nuclear technology and materials with India. The Joint Statement of July 18, 2005 commits the USA to work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India. Government have also taken up the issue bilaterally with a number of NSG member countries.

Increasing slums in Cities

†3094. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

SHRI KRISHAN LAL BALMIKI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to deal with the slums increasing rapidly in cities; and

(b) the total population of the country residing in such slums?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) The Government has launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with effect from December 3, 2005 to address the issues of provision of housing and civic amenities in slums in addition to city-wide infrastructure facilities. The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) programme addresses housing and civic amenities in 63 Mission cities. Similar problems of non-Mission cities are addressed through the scheme of Integrated Housing & Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission period is 2005—2012.

(b) The population residing in such slums is estimated by the Town & Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) at 62 million in 2001.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.